

LEWES NEW SCHOOL

Talbot Terrace, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2DS

15 SEPTEMBER 2017

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL

Lewes New School is an independent co-educational day school for pupils aged 3 to 11 years of age, located on a single site in Lewes, in East Sussex. The school is a registered charity and is overseen by a board of governors. There are 67 pupils on roll, of whom 42 are boys and 25 girls. Nineteen children are in the EYFS. The number of pupils requiring support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is 18. None of these pupils has an education, health and care (EHC) plan. Three pupils have English as an additional language (EAL), of whom one receives additional support for their English. The previous inspection was in March 2017.

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

This was an unannounced visit at the request of the Department for Education to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the regulatory compliance inspection in March 2017. The focus of the visit was on pupils' welfare, health and safety, particularly safeguarding; the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors; the provision of information; and the quality of leadership and management.

INSPECTION FINDINGS

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7 (a) and (b); EYFS requirements 3.4 to 3.8; 3.14]; Provision of information to parents [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c)]

The school meets the regulations and requirements.

The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are published on the school's website. The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.

The school implements the correct procedures for safeguarding children's welfare, which are fully in line with the most recent statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) September 2016. The staff code of conduct provides appropriate guidance and the policy for the safer recruitment of staff clearly sets out all the checks required prior to appointment. All staff now make a suitable declaration with regard to any potential disqualification by association. Appropriate support is in place for all pupils, which recognises the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), and the particular vulnerability of pupils with SEND and EAL.

Safeguarding is correctly managed and procedures are regularly reviewed. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is a member of the senior leadership team. The school liaises appropriately with outside agencies over concerns about pupils. Suitable arrangements are in place to ensure the correct referral process for allegations against staff (including the DSL), volunteers and the head. All staff, including those with designated responsibility for safeguarding, have appropriate levels of training. Records of such training are carefully monitored and maintained. Appropriate arrangements are in place for the induction of new staff, which includes training in

safeguarding. Staff are aware of the dangers of extremism and radicalisation, and during interviews they demonstrate a strong understanding of their responsibilities and are aware of how to refer concerns. Staff have read and understood the latest version of Part 1 of KCSIE and those involved in working with children have read Annex A of the same document. The nominated governor monitors and supports those with designated roles for safeguarding in the school. The governing body maintains careful oversight of safeguarding and ensures the regular review of policies and procedures, including procedures for safer recruitment.

The suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18(2)(b), (2)(c)(ii), (2)(d), 18(3); 21(3)(b) and EYFS requirements 3.9 to 3.13]

The school meets the regulations and requirements.

Recruitment checks, including those against the prohibited from teaching list and checks on medical fitness, are completed before staff commence employment at the school. Staff files contain the required information, including proof of identity checks. Disclosure and barring service (DBS) checks are undertaken before each person starts work at the school. The single central register has been updated to include detail on all the required checks and is appropriately monitored and maintained.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34(1)(a), (b) and (c)]

The school meets the regulation.

The school's leaders and managers fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent standards are met and they actively promote pupils' well-being. Governors provide appropriate oversight through monitoring arrangements so that relevant regulations are consistently met. The action points from the previous inspection have been appropriately addressed.

REGULATORY ACTION POINTS

The school meets all of the relevant requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and of the Early Years Statutory Framework.